



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

January 5, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents and
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Sally Vaughn, Ph.D. *Sally*
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: Green Ribbon Schools Announcement

I am pleased to announce that the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will participate in the Green Ribbon Schools program.

The Green Ribbon Schools program was recently launched by the U. S. Department of Education to recognize schools that save energy and reduce operating costs, create environmentally friendly learning spaces, promote student health, and provide environmental education to incorporate sustainability into the curriculum.

According to the guidance released, Green Ribbon Schools will have achieved or made considerable progress toward the three pillars established in the program: 1) energy efficient buildings; 2) healthy students and school environment; and 3) environmental literacy of all graduates. The combined achievement in these three areas will be the basis for the Green Ribbon Schools award.

Public and private schools in Michigan will make their application for nomination to the MDE. As the chief state school officer, Superintendent Flanagan is permitted to nominate up to four schools to the U. S. Department of Education. If four are nominated, one must be a public school with at least 40 percent of the students eligible for free and reduced meals, and one must be a private school. All schools must meet high college- and career-ready standards and be in compliance with federal civil rights laws and all federal, state, and local health and safety standards and regulations.

Applications will be reviewed by expert representatives from the Michigan Green Schools Foundation, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the Michigan Department of Community Health, the Michigan Energy Office, the

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Regional Education Advocacy Office of the National Wildlife Federation, the Michigan Department of Education, and the President of the U. S. Partnership for Educational and Sustainable Development.

Application materials may be downloaded at: <http://www.michigan.gov/mde/> and are due no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 17, 2012. For more information on Green Ribbon Schools, please visit: www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools.

If you have any questions, please contact Patty Cantú, Director, Office of Career and Technical Education at: cantup@michigan.gov or (517) 335-5224.